

SoME Notes from the Workshop

A (roughly) bimonthly column of woodturning-related tool and product reviews written by the membership of the Southern Maine Woodturners (aka SoME Woodturners).

Interim editor: Johnna Klukas (jyklukas@jykboxes.com)

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SUBMISSIONS

If you have an idea for a review, e-mail me at jyklukas@jykboxes.com. Please put "SoME Woodturners" in the subject line so my e-mail filters see it properly. At least initially, "SoME Notes from the Workshop" will be published on the club website roughly bimonthly, in February, April, June, August, October and December.

GUIDELINES for writing Product Reviews

There's an old saying, "Write what you know," and that's a good rule to apply here. As clearly and concisely as possible, talk about your experiences using turning tools, chucks, classes, DVDs, whatever has helped - or hindered - you in your turning. Think of what you'd tell another club member who asked for your opinion on the product. If you loved it, why? What made it exactly right for your turning task? If you hated it, why? Where did it fall short? Describing your experiences may help someone else decide whether or not it's the right product for them. Think about the types of questions you would ask someone about the product. Also remember that one person's trash is another's treasure, so even if a product didn't work well for your needs, it might be useful to someone else, and vice versa.

If a product is reviewed in "SoME Notes from the Workshop" and you have a different opinion on it, feel free to write it up and submit it. Again, though, describe your own experiences with the product and why your opinion differs, not just "But I loved that product!" or "But I thought that product stunk!"

If possible, provide a link to the manufacturer's website and/or a digital image of the product (including all the parts that come with it, where applicable). A clear digital picture from your workshop will do if you can't get one from the manufacturer.

End your review with a couple of scores from 0 to 10:

Usefulness to you: 0 – 10 (0 = Junk!, 10 = Fabulous!)

Value for the money: 0 – 10 (0 = I want my money back!, 10 = Cheap at twice the price!)

IF YOU HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, that is, if you work for the company that sells or manufactures the product (or a competitor), or have a family member who does, PLEASE state that at the beginning of your review.

For examples of how product reviews are structured, look at prior review columns on the SoME Woodturners website and the review columns in woodworking magazines.

GUIDELINES for writing Working Tips

Got a new method for applying wipe on finishes? An easier way to sand in those tight spots? Discovered the "perfect grind" for your bowl gouge, or your scraper? Those are examples of working tips. Think of it as a conversation between yourself and another club member about how you work on a turning project. If possible, provide clear digital pictures of your working process. Working tips should be fairly brief, a paragraph or two and a picture or two at most. If your tip is more complicated than that, you might want to consider doing a demo for the club instead.